

Military

A Huge Employer

by John Mathews

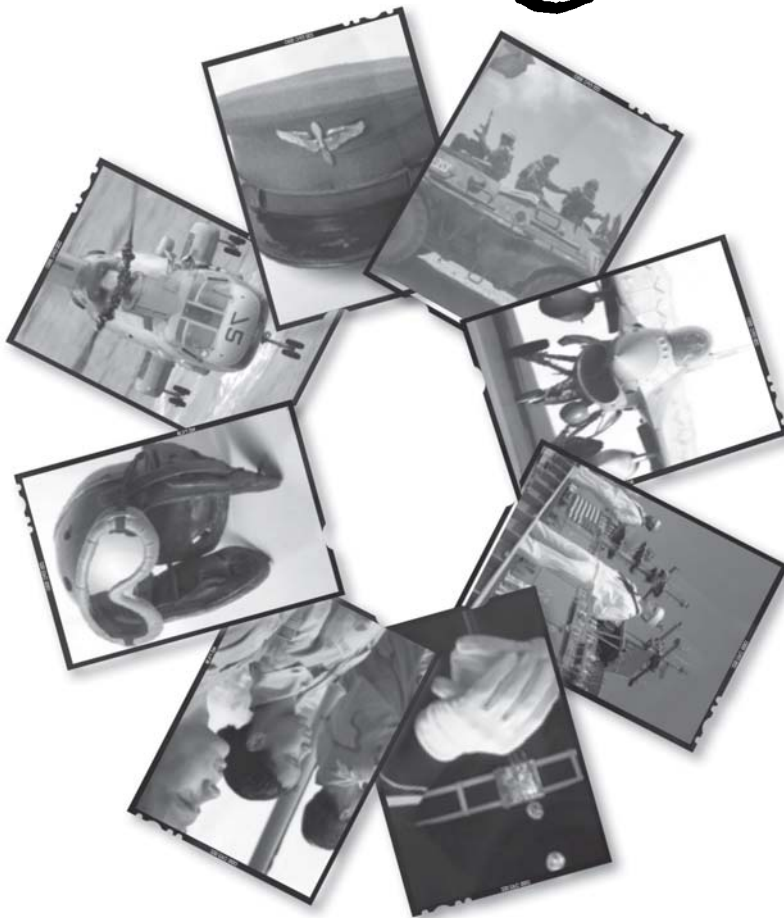
The military employs thousands of workers in Utah. It is a big part of government in the state, and an important piece of the state's economy. Over the last 10 to 15 years, the military's presence has diminished due to base closures, staff reductions, or realignments by the U.S. Department of Defense. Two big impacts occurred at the Tooele Army Depot (reduction) and the Defense Depot Ogden (closure). Hill Air Force Base, Dugway Proving Grounds, and a much smaller Tooele Army Depot have so far survived closure activities.

Military (defense) Spending in Utah

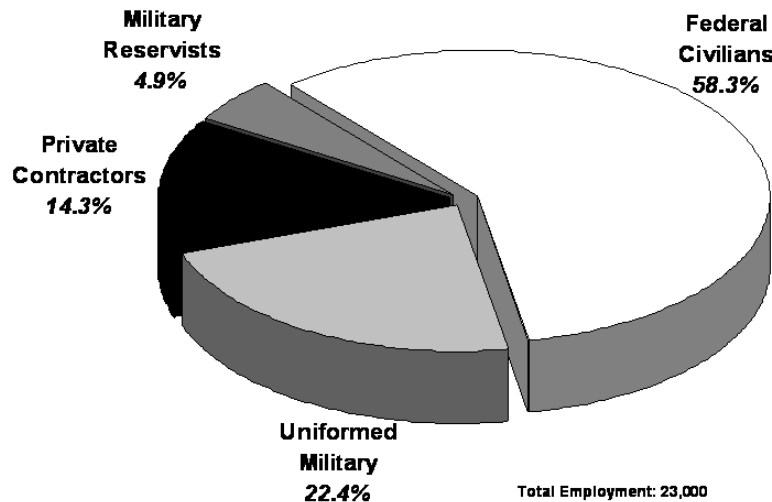
Although the military experienced reductions during most of the 1990s, Congress reversed this trend by the end of the decade. As a result, defense spending in Utah in 2001 totaled \$2.4 billion (see Federal Defense-Related Spending Graph), an increase of 23 percent from the previous year.

For years, Hill Air Force Base was faced with the possibility of closure. Recent developments have eased that concern. In 1999, Hill was selected as headquarters for one of 10 new "expeditionary" forces that will be used for U.S. quick deployment to trouble spots around the world. Additionally, benefiting from military downsizing in other parts of the country, Hill

became the home of Northrup Grumman Corp., the prime contractor for the military's B-2 stealth bomber. The future of Utah's defense industry is much more certain than in years past, and the increased importance of Hill Air Force Base should prove to be a buffer against future base closures.*



Hill Air Force Base Employment



Source: HAFB information Office.

Hill Air Force Base – Big Time Employer

Every day roughly 23,000 people go to work at Hill Air Force Base. That's a lot of workers! This number includes civilian federal employees, uniformed active-duty military, civilian contractors, and military reservists (see Hill Air Force Employment Graph). The federal civilian employees number 13,000. Uniformed active duty Air Force adds 5,000, with private contractors (on base) numbering 3,200 and military reservists accounting for about 1,100. Combined, these 23,000 employees wield a hefty economic clout. The civilian workers alone account for over \$600 million in total payroll dollars.

Tooele County

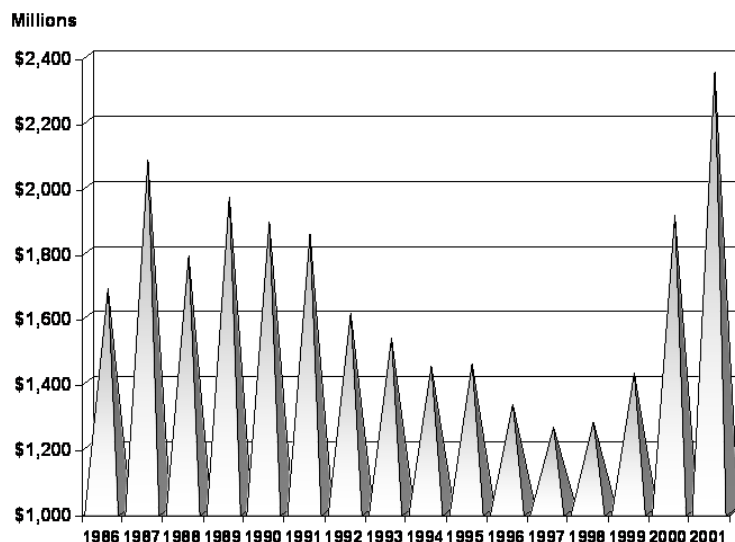
Tooele County is also a beneficiary of military spending. Together, the Tooele Army Depot and Dugway Proving Grounds account for

around 1,500 civilian jobs, and payrolls of \$85 million. This is significant in a small county like Tooele. This federal civilian employment is over 10 percent of all county employment, and over 20 percent of total payrolls.

For more information on the defense industry in Utah see:

www.governor.state.ut.us/dea/ERG/ERG2003/18.Defense.PDF

Federal Defense-Related Spending in Utah



Sources: U.S. Dept of Commerce, Census Bureau; Dept of Defense.